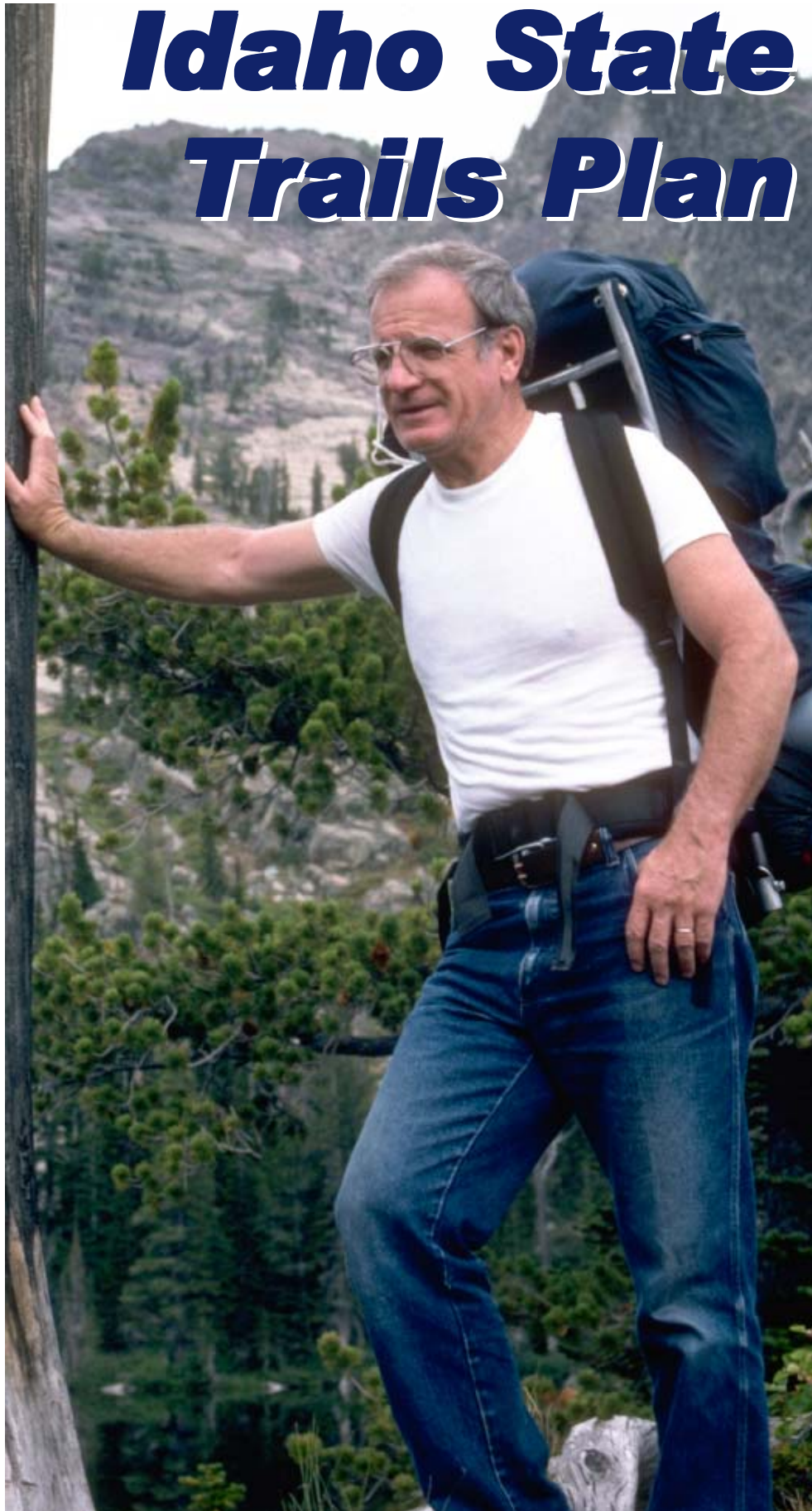


Idaho State Trails Plan



IDAHO



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Governor
State of Idaho

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Idaho Park and Recreation Board

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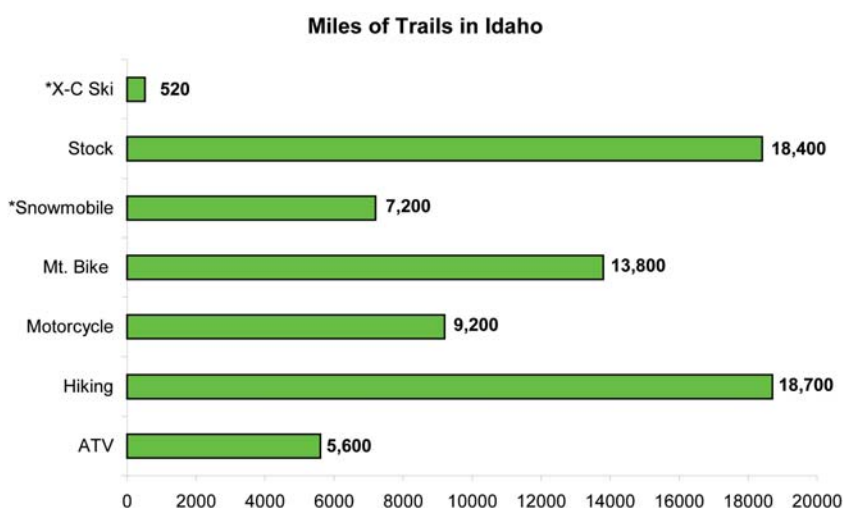
The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation also thanks all those who took the time to participate in the planning process.

Introduction

Idaho has one of the largest designated trail systems in the country with approximately 19,000 miles of summer trails and 8,000 miles of winter trails. Despite having a large system of trails that is available to a wide range of recreational users, Idaho has lacked a recent state trails plan.

Idaho trails are located in areas ranging from deep river canyons to high desert plains, to mountain crags to urban greenbelts. Idaho's trails are available to a broad variety of uses.

**By Jeff Cook,
Outdoor
Recreation
Analyst**



** These are only designated marked or groomed routes. Thousands of miles of trails are available to snowmobilers and cross-country skiers in the winter though they may not be marked for winter travel. Also, thousands of acres of land are available for cross-country travel for skiing and snowmobiling.*

Past Planning Efforts

Despite having one of the largest trail systems in the country and being available to a variety of trail users, Idaho's trail system lacked a recent plan. Idaho's last plan was produced in 1993.

The major issues identified in the 1993 Trails Plan were:

- Access to public lands for motorized and non-motorized uses.
- The need for urban and rural trail systems.
- Keeping the current backcountry trail system intact.
- Lack of maps and information, and access to trail information.
- The need for more current, comprehensive trail-related economic data.
- A lack of dedicated state funding sources for non-motorized trails.
- A need for connector routes to backcountry trail systems from Idaho's communities.
- The lack of maintenance on summer and winter trails.
- Land management agency travel management.
- Trail-use compatibility.
- Utilizing volunteers for trail projects.

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Many of these issues still exist today. The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) has made progress in several areas over the past 10 years. Listed below are a few accomplishments from the 1993 Trails Plan

- Idaho Rail-Trail Plan helped create the Route of Hiawatha Trail, Trail of Coeur d' Alenes, and Ashton-Tetonia Rail-Trails. Each one of these trails was rated as having high potential for rail-trail conversion. The Weiser-Tamarack line was converted into a rail-trail, and portions of the Moscow-Arrow line between Troy and Moscow are being developed as a trail.
- In 1995, the IDPR Trail Cat Program was established to create more ATV trail opportunities. The program now has two operators and machines, constructed and reconstructing 100 miles of ATV trails per year.
- The Trail Ranger Program has increased from two crews to three, enabling the program to maintain 1,500 miles of trail per year. The program also established a volunteer program that helps volunteers with the costs of trail maintenance. This increases maintenance by 300 miles per year.
- Recreational Trails Program funding increased from \$95,000 per year to \$720,000 per year. This program provides an additional source of motorized trail funding and establishes funding for nonmotorized trails.
- The Snowmobile Program increased the size of the grooming fleet from 28 to 36 groomers. New grooming programs were established in Cassia and Clearwater counties.
- Non-resident fees for snowmobiles were established in 2000. This program increased funding for most designated snowmobile programs. Non-resident fees greatly increased funding in Fremont, Bonner, Franklin, Kootenai, and Valley counties.
- IDPR developed a yurt system to provide funding support for the Idaho City Park N' Ski trail system. The popularity of the yurt system has made the trail system self-supporting.

Idaho Land Management Agencies Providing Trail Opportunities

United States Forest Service (USFS)

The US Forest Service (USFS), under the Department of Agriculture, administers 20.4 million acres of land in Idaho. These lands contain more than 16,000 miles of designated single-track, summer use trails. Millions of acres and more than 4,000 miles of trails exist for winter use. National Forests, by law, provide recreation opportunities, timber, minerals, rangeland, water, wildlife, and fish habitat.

National Forests contain 96 percent of the designated trails in Idaho. The Forest Service in Idaho has three regions, eight Forests, 40 Ranger Districts and two National Recreation Areas. In Idaho, the Forest Service is the primary administering agency for the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, and the Nee-Me-Poo (Nez Perce) National Historic Trail. The Forest Service is also the primary manager of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

The Bureau of Land Management, under the Department of the Interior, administers nearly 12 million acres of land in Idaho. This land contains almost 1,700 miles of designated trails, however, thousands of miles of non-designated trails, primitive roads, and winter trails exist on BLM land. Ten trails designated in the National Trail System (see NPS below) lie entirely or in part on BLM land.

BLM land in Idaho is administered through the state office in Boise, with three district offices and 15 field offices throughout the state for on-the-ground management. BLM's resource management responsibilities in Idaho include recreation, timber, rangeland, water, minerals, fire protection, and fish and wildlife habitat.

National Park Service (NPS)

The National Park Service, under the Department of the Interior, administers 105,000 acres of land in Idaho that contain about 40 miles of designated trails. Although this amount of trails is low compared to the overall trail mileage in Idaho, NPS trails are significant for their historic and interpretive values.

NPS lands conserve scenic, natural, historic areas and the wildlife therein. The agency provides for the enjoyment of those areas in ways that will leave them unimpaired for future generations. NPS manages five areas in Idaho: Craters of the Moon National Monument; the western boundary of Yellowstone National Park; Nez Perce National Historic Park; Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument; and the City of Rocks National Reserve (jointly managed by IDPR).

NPS is also the primary administrator of the National Trails System as authorized by the National Trails System Act of 1968. This system consists of three types of nationally designated trails: National Historic Trails, National Scenic Trails, and National Recreation Trails. Various other agencies administer, operate, and maintain the National Trail System within their jurisdiction in consultation with NPS.

National Scenic Trails are designated by an act of Congress through a recommendation of a managing agency. They maximize outdoor recreation potential while providing for the conservation and enjoyment of nationally significant scenic, historic, natural, or cultural qualities of areas through which the trails pass. Idaho has one such trail, the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail.

National Historic Trails are also designated by an act of Congress. They are extended trails that follow original routes of national historic significance. Idaho has four National Historic Trails: the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, the Oregon National Historic Trail, the California National Historic Trail and the Nee-me-poo (Nez Perce) National Historic Trail.

A **National Recreation Trail** is a designation that can be obtained for trails managed by public or private agencies as a component of the National Trails System. They must be fully developed and available for use at the time

of designation, and the administering agency must certify that the trail will be available for public use for a minimum of ten years. These trails do not require an Act of Congress and can be designated either through the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture by a recommendation of the managing agency.

The National Park Service also operates the **Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program** under which technical assistance can be provided to state and local agencies in their planning efforts. Application procedures for designating National Recreation Trails or requesting technical assistance can be obtained by contacting the National Park Service, Pacific Northwest Office, Seattle, Washington.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps)

The Corps of Engineers, under the Department of Defense, administers almost 180,000 acres of land in Idaho that contain 31.9 miles of designated trails. The Corps' main purpose through its Civil Works program is to provide flood control, navigation, hydroelectric power generation, industrial, municipal, and agricultural water supply, water quality control, recreation, and the conservation of fish and wildlife. The Corps of Engineers manages trails around Dworshak Reservoir and the Lewiston Levee Trail system.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, under the Department of the Interior, administers 41,325 acres of land in Idaho that contain about 5 miles of designated trails. Although the Fish and Wildlife Service manage a low percentage of trails in the state, the trails are highly valued for their interpretative values and for their wildlife viewing access. The Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge is the only Idaho refuge that manages trails.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, under the Department of the Interior, administers 459,000 acres of land in Idaho. The BOR has played an active role in the economic development of Idaho by providing facilities that generate irrigation and power. The lands that the BOR manages, for the most part, have no designated trails, but do have undesignated trails.

Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR)

The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation administers 180 miles of designated trails within its state park system. More importantly, IDPR is the lead agency in the state seeking to coordinate the planning, development and implementation of a statewide trail system among federal, state, local agencies, and the private sector.

As such, IDPR administers the Idaho Recreational Trails System. The Idaho Recreation Trails Systems Act was established in 1974 to provide for the increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding resident and tourist population and to promote safe public access travel with and enjoyment and appreciation of the open-air, outdoor areas of Idaho. The Idaho Centennial Trail is the first trail established under this act. The 1,200-mile long trail runs from the Idaho-Nevada border to the Canadian border, on existing trails and infrequently used roads.

IDPR's Trails Program provides technical assistance to land management agencies, cities, counties, recreation districts, and the public. The Trails Program contains programs for both off-highway vehicle recreation and nonmotorized trails.

Idaho Department of Lands (IDL)

The Idaho Department of Lands manages nearly 2.5 million acres of state-endowment lands. IDL also provides fire protection on 10.5 million acres of state and private lands. In addition, IDL provides technical assistance in forestry. The IDL does not have a designated system of trails on its lands, but a variety of trail activities such as hiking and snowmobiling occur on endowment lands. Many trails that lie on endowment lands are part of USFS or BLM trail systems and are managed by those agencies.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG)

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game manages 300,000 acres of land. The purpose of these lands is to provide fish and wildlife habitat. These lands also provide access to other public lands. The IDFG has very few designated trails, but a variety of paths and roads used as trails exist.

Local Agencies

Idaho's cities, counties, and recreation districts manage 137 miles of trails. Twenty-eight counties help provide more than 7,200 miles of snowmobile trails. Local-agency trails are critical because they provide close-to-home trail opportunities.

Below and on the following pages is a list of trail organizations by use activity. This is only a partial list, and more trail related organizations may be listed in the future. The organizations listed have mailing addresses, and where appropriate, web page addresses.

ATV

Idaho ATV Association
P.O. Box 96
Boise, ID 83701
www.idahoatv.org/

ID ATV, Emmett Chapter
621 East 1st Street
Emmett ID 83617

Backcountry ATV Association
P.O. Box 611
Athol, ID 83801
www.backcountryatv.org

High Mountain ATV Association
P.O. Box 805
Wallace, ID 83873
www.imbris.net/~hmatvi/

Idaho Pathfinders
P.O. Box 126
White Bird, ID 83554

PLAY
P.O. Box 2531
Orofino, ID 83544

Four-Wheel Drive

Idaho Off-Road Club
P.O. Box 4173
Boise, ID 83711-4173
www.idaho4x4.com/

North Idaho Trail Blazers
P.O. Box 2912
Coeur d' Alene, ID 83816
www.nitb.org/

Motorcycle

Panhandle Trail Riders Assn
P.O. Box 1662
Post Falls, ID 83877
www.pantra.org/

High Mountain Trail Machine Association
P.O. Box 52
Grangeville, ID 83530-0052

Boise Ridge Riders
P.O. Box 9185
Boise, ID 83707
www.boiseridgeriders.org

Treasure Valley Trail Machine Association
P.O. Box 140162
Boise, ID 83714-0162
www.tvtma.com

Magic Valley Trail Machine Association
P.O. Box 1023
Twin Falls, ID 83303
www.mvtma.com/

Pocatello Trail Machine Association
P.O. Box 4459
Pocatello, ID 83202

Idaho Falls Trail Machine Association
P.O. Box 3625
Idaho Falls, ID 83403-3625

Equestrian

Backcountry Horsemen of Idaho
P.O. Box 513
Salmon, ID 83467
www.bchi.org/

Boise Backcountry Horsemen
3708 Boise River Road
Caldwell, ID 83604

Cache Peak Backcountry Horsemen
484 A S Meridian
Rupert, ID 83350

Eagle Rock Backcountry Horsemen
P.O. Box 2613
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

Heartland Backcountry Horsemen
P.O. Box 520
New Meadows, ID 83620

High Desert Backcountry Horsemen
208 South 100 East
Jerome, ID 83338

North Central Backcountry Horsemen
P.O. Box 112
Grangeville, ID 83530
www.ncidahobackcountryhorsemen.org/

Panhandle Backcountry Horsemen
P.O. Box 5382
Coeur d' Alene, ID 83814

Priest River Backcountry Horsemen
P.O. Box 498
Newport, WA 99156

Salmon River Backcountry Horsemen
P.O. Box 513
Salmon, ID 83467

Sawtooth Backcountry Horsemen
P.O. Box 217
Bellevue, ID 83313

Squaw Butte Backcountry Horsemen
4200 West Slope Road
Emmett, ID 83617

Twin River Backcountry Horsemen
P.O. Box 1633
Lewiston, ID 83501

Treasure Valley Backcountry Horsemen
P.O. Box 413
Nampa, ID 83653-0413
www.bchi.org/tvbch/

Snowmobile

Idaho State Snowmobile Association
Route 2, Box 85A
Homedale, ID 83628
idahosnowbiz.com

Boise Snowmobile Club
P.O. Box 1174
Meridian, ID 83680-1174
idahosnowbiz.com/boisesnow.shtml

Boise Basin Trailbreakers
2055 Dennell Way
Boise ID 83709

Clearwater Ridge Runners
2584 Grangemont Road
Orofino, ID 83524

Coeur d' Alene Snowmobile Club
P.O. Box 713
Coeur d' Alene, ID 83814
www.idahosnowbiz.com/coeursnow.shtml

Cougar Mountain Snowmobile Club
P.O. Box 7601
Boise, ID 83707
www.idahosnowbiz.com/cougar.shtml

Donnelly Snowmobile Club
P.O. Box 951
Donnelly, ID 83615
www.idahosnowbiz.com/donnelly.shtml

Franklin County Highmarkers
61 Ranch Loop Rd
Preston, ID 83263

Fugowee Snowmobile Club
P.O. Box 360
Island Park, ID 83429

Garden Valley Sno-Goers
P.O. Box 101
Garden Valley, ID 83622

Grangeville Snodrifters
Route 1, Box 8
Grangeville, ID 83530

High Country Snowmobile Club
P.O. Box 102
Dixie, ID 83525

Idaho Snowriders Club
HC 87 Box 350
Pine, ID 83647

Idaho West Magic Lake Recreation Club
149 W Magic Road #14
Shoshone, ID 83352

Kooskia Valley Cats
411 N State St
Kooskia, ID 83539

Lewis Clark Snowdrifters
P.O. Box 88
Lewiston, ID 83501
www.idahosnowbiz.com/lewisclark.shtml

Lookout Mountain Sky Riders
P.O. Box 507
Mullan, ID 83846

Magic Valley Snowmobilers
1086 Twin Parks Dr
Twin Falls, ID 83303

McCall Area Snowmobilers
P.O. Box 1252
McCall, ID 83638

Meadows Valley Snowmobile Club
3445 Fish Lake Rd
New Meadows, ID 83654

Moody Powder Pushers
P.O. Box 418
Rexburg, ID 83440

Mountain River SnoRiders
P.O. Box 50903
Idaho Falls, ID 83405

Mt. Harrison Snowmobile Club
200 South 222 East
Burley, ID 83318

Northside Snow Riders
267 Codova Ave
Twin Falls, ID 83301

Owyhee Ridge Runners
18876 Karcher Rd
Caldwell, ID 83605

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Pocatello Pathfinders
670 Redman
Chubbuck, ID 83202
www.idahosnowbiz.com/pocatello.shtml

Priest Lake Trails & Outdoor Rec Assn
P.O. Box 5
Nordman, ID 83848
www.priestlake.org/pltrails/

Salmon River Snowmobile Club
P.O. Box 23
Stanley, ID 83278

Sawtooth Snowmobile Club
P.O. Box 626
Bellevue, ID 83318

St. Joe Snowmobile Club
HC 03 Box 93P
St. Maries, ID 83861

Snodrifters of Latah County
1741 Little Bear Ridge
Troy, ID 83871
www.idahosnowbiz.com/snolatah.shtml

Sno-Roamers Snowmobile Club
447 Shelly Ave
Shelley, ID 83274

West Mountain Snowmobile Club
P.O. Box 959
Cascade, ID 83611
www.idahosnowbiz.com/westmtn.shtml

Bicycling

Southwest Idaho Mountain Bike Assn
P.O. Box 1443
Boise, ID 83701
www.swimba.org

Central Idaho Mountain Bike Assn
212 N 3rd St.
McCall, ID 83638

Moscow Area Mountain Bike Assn
710 E 7th St.
Moscow, ID 83843
<http://users.moscow.com/bike/>

Idaho State University Mountain Bike Club
303 N Hayes Ave #405
Pocatello, ID 83204

Cross Country Skiing

Nordic Voice
1718 N 17th St.
Boise, ID 83702

Panhandle Nordic Club
627 Borah Ave
Coeur d' Alene, ID 83814

Idaho Falls Ski Club
P.O. Box 52301
Idaho Falls, ID 83405
www.ifskiclub.com

Sawtooth Ski Club
P.O. Box 224
Stanley, ID 83278

Soda Springs Nordic Ski Association
1752 Cedar View Rd
Soda Springs, ID 83276

Friends of Alpine and Nordic Winter Sports
P.O. Box 4245
McCall, ID 83638
www.frontiernet.net/~lclorder/FANWS

Idaho Alpine Club
P.O. Box 2885
Idaho Falls, ID 83403
www.idahoalpineclub.org

Nordic and Backcountry Skiers Alliance
P.O. Box 3186
Sun Valley, ID 83353
www.skiersalliance.org

General Trails

Idaho Trails Council
5657 Warm Springs Ave
Boise, ID 83704

Priest Lake Trails & Outdoor Rec Assn
P.O. Box 5
Nordman, ID 83848
www.priestlake.org/pltrails/

Great Western Trail Association
Idaho Chapter
2352 E. Oneida
Preston, ID 83263

Hiking

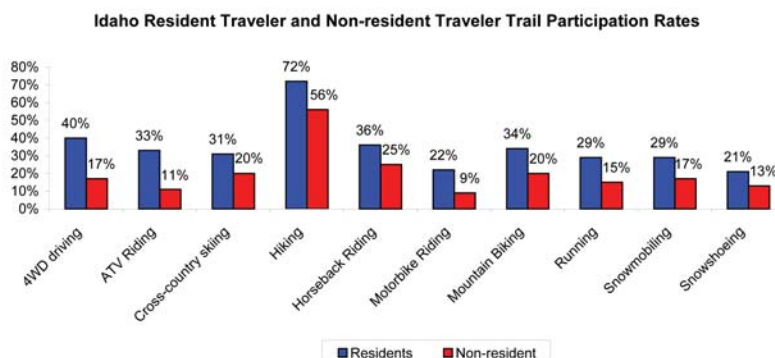
Idaho Alpine Club
P.O. Box 2885
Idaho Falls, ID 83403
www.idahoalpineclub.org

User Activity

The 2000 *Leisure Travel and Recreation Study*, 2002 *Idaho Outdoor Recreation Survey*, and the 2000 *National Survey on Recreation and the Environment* provide information on Trail Participation Rates. All of these surveys gave much more information on other recreation activities, and summaries are available elsewhere in SCORTP. The purpose of this section is to examine and compare prior participation rates with current rates, and compare Idaho's trail participation rates with those of its visitors and nationally.

The 2000 Leisure Travel and Recreation Study

The survey period for this study occurred from 1999 to 2000. The main goal of the project is to provide practical data on resident and non-resident motor vehicle travelers in Idaho including: party characteristics, recreation activity characteristics, destination and travel patterns, economic data, psychographic profile, traveler opinions and preferences on Idaho tourism and recreation services, needs, and assessment of traveler signage, facility and safety.

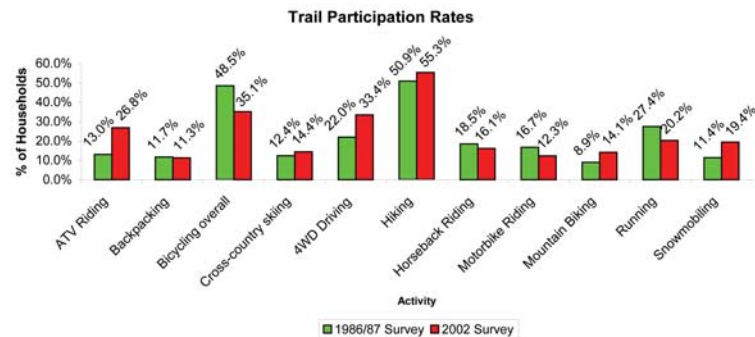


The 2000 Leisure Travel and Recreation Study shows that Idaho residents travelers are more active in trail-based recreation than non-resident travelers. The most popular activity with survey respondents was hiking. Seventy-two percent of Idaho resident travelers and 56% of Idaho non-resident travelers participated in hiking. The least popular activity for Idaho resident travelers was snowshoeing. The least popular activity for non-resident travelers was motorbike riding.



The 2002 Idaho Outdoor Recreation Survey

The survey period for this study occurred in October and November 2002. The purpose of this survey was to obtain data from Idaho households on outdoor recreation participation rates and opinions on the relative importance of recreation issues in Idaho.



The chart compares data collected from the 1987 Pacific Northwest Outdoor Recreation Survey and the 2002 Idaho Outdoor Recreation Survey. Both surveys asked similar questions and were conducted in similar manner.

ATV riding has shown the largest growth by doubling in participation by Idaho households. When combined with the increase in population, it helps explain the large growth in ATV registrations. Four-wheel driving (full size passenger vehicles) has increased from 22% to 34%. Snowmobiling also showed an increase from 11.4% to 19.4% in 2002.

Some activities such as backpacking, cross-country skiing, hiking and horseback riding, have stayed relatively stable or increased slightly. Other activities such as running, and motorbike riding have decreased slightly. This decrease has not diminished demand because the large increase in Idaho's population has increased the total user population. The activity with the largest decrease was bicycling which went from 48.5% to 35.1%. Mountain biking increased from 8.9% to 14.1%.

The 2000 National Survey on Recreation and the Environment

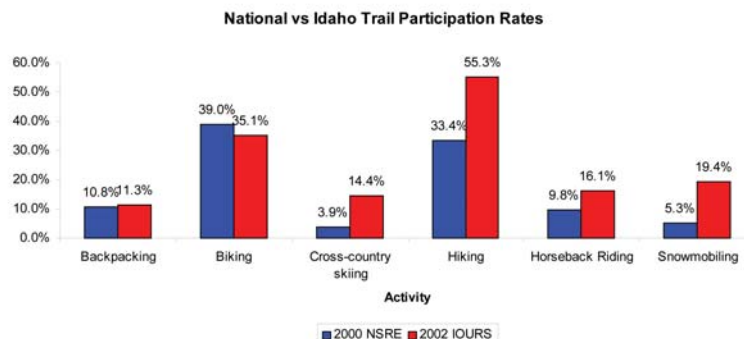
The survey period for this study occurred from July 1999 through October 2000. The study was conducted to describe participation by Americans in outdoor recreation activities.

Trail Participation Rates

All activities should not be compared with the 2000 Leisure Travel and Recreation Study. The Leisure Study and the Outdoor Recreation Survey had different survey populations, methodologies, and survey techniques. The Leisure Study surveyed travelers, while the recreation study surveyed Idaho households.

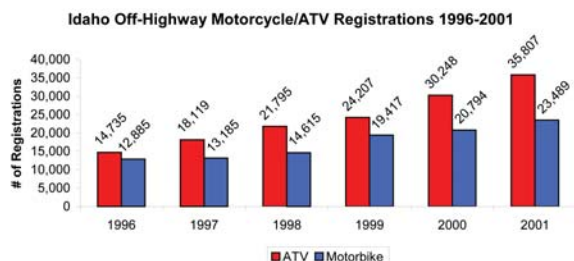
Trying to project future growth in trail activities is very difficult. For example, ATV recreation use was projected to grow at less than 2.5% per year in the PNOR, while the 2002 Outdoor Recreation Survey showed it, had the largest increase of the trail activities compared. Other activities such as bicycling, projected large increases, while actual household participation decreased.

The chart below compares the 2000 National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE) with the 2002 Idaho Outdoor Recreation Survey (IOURS). Idahoans are more active in hiking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing. Idahoans are consistent with backpacking, and less active in bicycling. It was not possible to compare summer motorized trail activities because the NSRE combined ATV, motorcycling, and four-wheel driving, while the IOURS separated them.



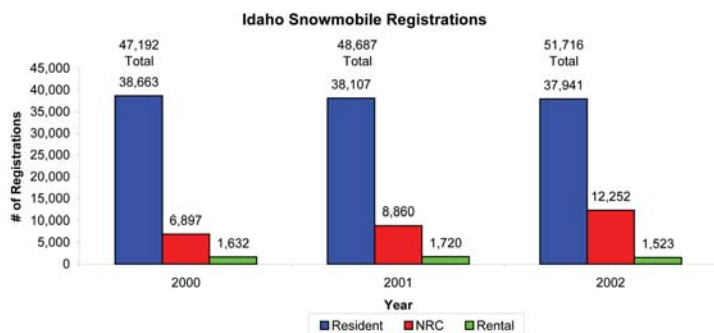
IDPR Registration Data

Trail Participation Rates



The chart above shows the number of registrations for off-highway motorcycles and ATVs in Idaho. ATVs have been driving the bulk of registration growth for the past six years, but motorcycle registrations have been increasing as well. Much of the ATV increase can be attributed to increasing numbers of people getting into the sport, while motorcycle registration increase is more of a result of more individuals complying with the registration requirements. The registration data provide further evidence on the need to manage and create dedicated ATV facilities in Idaho.

Trail Participation Rates



For the past three years, Idaho snowmobile registrations have been on the increase, thanks to nonresident certificates. Resident snowmobile registrations have declined slightly, and well as rental registrations. The nonresident certificate requirement first went into effect in 2000. The increase in nonresident registrations is a result of increasing compliance with the requirement and Idaho becoming more of a destination of out-of-state snowmobilers. Idaho has the highest number of snowmobile registrations for the Northwest (Idaho (51,716), Washington (31,532), Oregon (16,809), Montana (23,440), Utah (27,894), Wyoming (19,060)) according to International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association statistics.

Overall Findings

ATV use is dramatically increasing. The 1987 Pacific Northwest Outdoor Recreation Survey found that 13 percent of Idaho households use ATVs. The 2002 Idaho Outdoor Recreation Survey found that 26.8 percent of respondents participated in ATV recreation. Off-Highway ATV registrations have increased from 21,890 in 1998 to 40,276 in 2002 - an 84 percent increase.

Mountain bike use has significantly increased. The 1987 Pacific Northwest Outdoor Recreation Survey found that 8.9% of Idaho households participated in mountain biking. The 2002 Idaho Outdoor Recreation Survey found that 14.1% of respondents participated in mountain biking.

Idaho's urban pathway system has expanded through Transportation Enhancement Program, Recreational Trails Program, and Recreation and Energy Conservation Pathway Program funding.

Snowmobilers' greatest needs are the development of new parking areas and enlargement of existing parking areas.

ATV riders, off-highway motorbike riders, and snowmobilers need more backcountry trail opportunities and better maintained trails.

ATV riders, off-highway motorbike riders, and snowmobilers want better signage on trails.

Fifty-five percent of equine use in Idaho is related to recreational pursuits.

Equine trails and trailheads remain underserved because of a lack of dedicated state funding source.

The lack of proper travel planning and signing has lead to the conversion of many single-track trails to ATV trails.

Increased Congressional appropriations, the Recreation Fee Demo Program, and Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation partnerships, resulted in a net reduction in total Forest Service spending for recreation.

The 2002 *Understanding ATV/OHM and Hunting Interactions in Idaho* study found that 47.5 percent of hunters use an ATV or an off-highway motorcycle (OHM). The percentage of hunters never using an ATV decreased from 83 percent in 1988 to 35 percent in 2000.



Goals, Objectives and Implementation

The previous sections covered Idaho land management agencies, trail-user participation rates, and finding affecting Idaho's trail system. Goals, objectives, and implementation steps were generated from this information and through consultation with IDPR staff.

The figure illustrates the relationship between the goals, and action items of the plan.



Each goal has several action items. The action items will be undertaken by IDPR to work toward the goals of the plan. A general time frame is provided to work on the various action items. These will be used for the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Plan scorecard.

While IDPR is the primary agency responsible for the implementation of the *Idaho Trails Plan*, partners are needed for its successful implementation.

IDPR directly manages only 203 miles of the 27,000 miles of summer and winter trails in Idaho. The department does not direct the daily activities of the land-management agencies, but it can help trail-related activities through maintenance, building, and funding of trail-related projects.

Idaho Trails Plan Goals & Action Items

Goal 1

Ensure Idaho's residents and visitors have access to and use of adequate trail opportunities.

IDPR Action Items:

Continue the funding of trail projects that provide access to the backcountry to disperse trail use.

Time Frame: Fiscal Years 2004-2006

Complete advance snowmobiling funding program through Recreational Trails Program (RTP). Fund programs in the following order (Nez Perce and Boundary, Kootenai, Bonneville/Bingham, Bear Lake/Franklin).

Time Frame: Fiscal Years 2004-2006

After snowmobile programs are funded, utilize a portion of RTP motorized funding to replace one snowmobile trail program Over-Snow Vehicle and trail groomer per year.

Time Frame: Fiscal Year 2007

Allow up to 20 percent of nonmotorized RTP funds within a given fiscal year to be used to replace one Park N' Ski or State Park trail program Over-Snow Vehicle and trail groomer.

Time Frame: Fiscal Year 2004-2007

Start two more Idaho Parks and Recreation Backcountry Recreational Trail projects.

Time Frame: Fiscal Years 2004-2007

Complete marking and (re) construction of Idaho Centennial Trail where appropriate. Inventory areas where the trail is incomplete. Where possible, relocate or construct trail to complete linkage.

Time Frame: Fiscal Years 2003-2007

Work with land management agencies to get abandoned trails back on the trails system, according to recreation demand, the land resource, and funding.

Time Frame: Fiscal Years 2004-2007

Create more designated snowshoe, ATV and four-wheel drive trail opportunities where available.

Time Frame: Fiscal Years 2004-2007

Work with Counties, Cities, and Highway Districts to create connector routes for trail systems.

Time Frame: Fiscal Years 2004-2007

Work with land management agencies to improve signing, mapping, and marking of trails.

Time Frame: Fiscal Years 2004-2007

Work with communities to develop additional trails near population centers.

Time Frame: Fiscal Years 2004-2007

Goal 2

Provide trail information that is consistent, easy to comprehend, and encourages dispersion of users.

IDPR Action Items:

Get Trail Ranger Maintenance Reports out to the media, clubs, and Internet each month during the season. Note ATV and motorbike trails maintained separately.

Time Frame: 2003-2007

Revise the Snowmobile Registration Laws Brochure.

Time Frame: 2003



Goal 3

Reduce the trail maintenance and construction backlog.

IDPR Action Item:s

Expand the Trail Ranger Program by one department crew, and get more OHV clubs involved under the contract program.

Time Frame: Summer 2004-2007

Expand the Trail Cat Program by one machine and operator. Fund a portion of the program through the Recreational Trails Program to build trails for both motorized and non-motorized use.

Time Frame: Summer 2004-2007

Work with land management agencies and trail organizations to conduct trail construction and design workshops.

Time Frame: 2003-2007

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Work with trail organizations and the Idaho Legislature to establish a new dedicated state funding source for nonmotorized trails.

Time Frame: Winter 2004

Goal 4

Educate and promote trail safety, etiquette, and cooperation.

Implement a motorbike and ATV safety and education program.

Time Frame: Fiscal Year 2004-2007

Work with winter recreation groups and agencies to expand the winter safety program and increase avalanche awareness.

Time Frame: Winter 2003-2007

Expand noise testing by providing sound meters and instruction to law enforcement entities. Work with OHV organizations and the Idaho Legislature to lower the legal limit for motorcycles and ATVs.

Time Frame: Fiscal Years 2003-2007

Work with the Idaho Trails Council to sponsor symposiums bringing different trail organizations together.

Time Frame: Fiscal Years 2003-2007

Goal 5

Ensure that management activities and actions are compatible with trails programs and development.

IDPR Action Items:

Review and comment on federal planning documents for the potential impacts to trails and trail use. Propose appropriate mitigation options when trails will be affected by other land use activities.

Time Frame: Fiscal Years 2003-2007

Start a GIS database of existing urban pathway and backcountry trail opportunities.

Time Frame: Fiscal Year 2005

Work with trail organizations and the legislature to revise Idaho Code 67-4233 to broaden to the scope of trail uses.

Time Frame: Winter 2005

Coordinate with state and federal agencies on National Historic and Scenic Trails and other nationally significant trails.

Time Frame: Fiscal Years 2003-2007

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

Section 1112, TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

The Recreational Trails Program of 1998 establishes a program for allocating funds to the States for recreational trails and trail-related projects. The program is administered by the Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, in consultation with the Department of the Interior. Projects must be from trail plans included or referenced in a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. It is the intent of this section to outline the types of projects eligible for grants under the Recreational Trails Program.

Recreational Trails Program grants will be used for the following activities

- (1) Maintenance and restoration of existing recreational trails;
- (2) Development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages for recreational trails;
- (3) Purchase and lease of recreational trail construction and maintenance equipment;
- (4) Construction of new recreational trails.
- (5) Acquisition of easements and fee simple title to property for recreational trails or recreational trail corridors.

If reauthorization of RTP allows, consider utilizing a portion of RTP grant funds to assess trail conditions for accessibility and maintenance requirements. Encourage grantees to utilize youth corps programs for maintenance and construction work.

At least 30 percent of funds received annually will be reserved for uses relating to motorized recreation. At least 30 percent of funds received annually will be reserved for uses relating to non-motorized recreation. The remaining 40 percent will be reserved for projects that provide for multiple-use types of motorized and nonmotorized recreation.



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